

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/03/19	Salonika, Greece OB Suedost	Activation of Sturmbrigade Rhodos	
1943/03/29	Island of Rhodes	Formation of Sturmbrigade Rhodos with units of the 22.ID transferred from Crete	
1943/04/18	Island of Rhodes	Taking command of all German units	Subordinate to: Okdo.HGr. E (OB Suedost), 1943/04/18-1943/12/31
1943/05/19		Assignment of Gren.Rgt. Rhodos and units of the 999. Afrika-Div.	
1943/05/20		Reorganization as Sturm-Div. Rhodos	
1943/05/31	Zittau, Wehrkreis IV	Formation of division staff from Gren.Ers.Btl. 440 by Wehrbezirkskdo. Dresden I	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Ulrich Kleemann, 1943/05/25-1944/09/18
1943/06/06	Island of Rhodes	Transfer of division staff	
1943/06/13	Pastidha, Maritsa, Psithos, Arcipoli, Campochiaro, Villanova, city of Rhodes, Arnitha, Cattavia, Salakos, Arcangelo, Laermo	Occupation and security duty, alert exercises, defense against enemy sea and air attacks, training	
1943/09/08- 1943/09/30	Island of Rhodes	Capitulation of the Italian Government, offensive engagements against Italian Forces, disarming and internment of Italian troops, setting up a new Fascist Government, security, defense against enemy sea and air attacks	
1943/10/01- 1943/12/31	Islands of Rhodes, Syme, Chalke, Samos, Leros, Nisyros, Telos, Kalimnos, Kos, Karpathos, Levitha, Astypalaia (Dodecanese island group)	Occupation and security duty, coastal defense, offensive engagements, disarming and internment of Italian Forces	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
------	----------	----------	------------------

79

Although no records of this division dated later than 1944/01/03 were available in the National Archives, records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398, page 127) and H 1/132 (T78, roll 412) and situation maps of Lage Balkan and Lage Suedost show:

1944/01/01- 1944/09/24	Island of Rhodes, Dodecanese island group	Occupation and security duty, coastal defense, alert exercises	
1944/09/25	Yugoslavia	Transfer	
1944/10/17	Osijek (Esseg)	Incorporation into Panzergranadier-Division Brandenburg, disbandment of Sturm-Div. Rhodos	

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>Ia, KTB 1 mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa/b, TB. War journal, including directives, reports, and messages pertaining to Sturmbrigade Rhodos taking command of German Army units on the island of Rhodes by order of OB Suedost (OKH/HGr E), 18 Apr 1943; reorganization of Sturmbrigade Rhodos as a Sturmdivision (assault division) with assignment of Gren.Rgt. Rhodos (formerly Gren.Rgt. 440) and transfer from the island of Lemnos with units of the 999. Afrika-Div., 19-20 May; formation of the division staff by Wehrbezirkskommando Dresden I from Gren.Ers.Rtl. 440 in Zittau, Wehrkreis IV, 31 May, operational readiness, 5 Jun, and movement to the island of Rhodes, 6-12 Jun; and occupation and security duty, training, alert exercises, and defense against enemy sea and air attacks in the Maritsa, Pastidha, Psithos, Arcipoli, Campochiaro, Villanova, Rhodes, Arnitha, Cattavia, and Arcangelo areas, 8-30 Jun.</p> <p>Activity reports of the personnel branch, 25 May-30 Jun, and the intelligence branch, 9-30 Jun; a register of officers; billeting surveys; intelligence reports; and maps showing the location of units of Sturmdivision Rhodos.</p>	1943/06/04-1943/06/30	SturmD Rhodos 41824/1	2274	1
<p>Ia, KTB 2. War journal concerning training, defense against enemy sea and air attacks, occupation and security activity, and alert exercises on the island of Rhodes, 1 Jul-7 Sep 1943; capitulation of the Badoglio Government to General Eisenhower, offensive engagements against, disarming, and internment of Italian Forces and security on the island of Rhodes, 8-30 Sep, and the islands of Syme, Chalke, Samos, Leros, Nisyros, Telos, Kalimnos, Kos, Karpathos, Levitha, and Astypalaia of the Dodecanese island group, 1 Oct-31 Dec.</p>	1943/07/01-1943/12/31	SturmD Rhodos 45659/1	2274	106
<p>Ib, KTB 1; IVa, V, III, TB. War journal regarding the arrival of units of the 22.ID from the island of Crete</p>	1943/03/29-1943/06/30	SturmD Rhodos 41824/2	2274	180

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS

81

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>on the island of Rhodes and designation as Sturmbrigade Rhodos, 29 Mar 1943; re-enforcement of Sturmbrigade Rhodos, 15 May, and reorganization as Sturmdivision Rhodos, 20 May; and supplying through Kreta/Festland Kdo. Athen, 29 Mar-5 Jun and by Bfh. Suedgriechenland, 6-30 Jun. Special directives concerning supply and supply troops; strength reports; and activity reports of the administrative officer, 6 Jun-10 Aug, the motor transport officer, 1 Jun-20 Oct, and the judge advocate, 1-30 Jun. (Record item 45659/2 was not available at the time of filming.)</p>	1943/08/01-1943/08/31	SturmD Rhodos 45659/3	2274	247
<p>Ia, Anlagen 81-143 zum KTB 2. Orders, directives, and reports pertaining to the relationship between German and Italian commands and units, the tactical and disciplinary subordination of German and Italian units, behavior and attitude of German troops toward Italians and Greeks, assignment of new units to and reorganization and tactical organization of Sturmdivision Rhodos, which consisted of subordinate Kampfgruppen Marizza, Arnita, Cattavia, Arcipoli, Campochiaro, Salaco, and Alaerma; occupation and security duty; air raid protection; training; the political, tactical, supply, traffic, and health situation; and enemy air, sea, and agents activity on the island of Rhodes and Karpathos (Scarpanto). A status report, military-geographic data relating to the island of Rhodes, and daily reports concerning personnel matters.</p>	1943/09/01-1943/09/30	SturmD Rhodos 45659/4	2274	405
<p>Ia, Anlagen 144-304 zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to occupation and security duty, training, and alert exercises, 1-8 Sep 1943; capitulation of the Italian Government under Badoglio, 3-8 Sep, including Allied terms of surrender; execution of Unternehmen Achse (measures to be taken in case of an Italian capitulation) including German terms; attack</p>				

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>against Italian Forces on the island of Rhodes, 9-13 Sep; disarming Italian Armed Forces and control of the island by German Forces, 14-18 Sep; terms offered Italian units, officers, and enlisted men to join the Germans within the compass (im Rahmen) of the German Armed Forces; the rescue of Mussolini; establishing a new Fascist Government in Italy; and securing the island from within and defense against enemy air and sea attacks, 19-30 Sep.</p> <p>Reports concerning the political, tactical, traffic, supply, health, and replacement situation; construction of coastal defenses; and enemy air activity on the island of Rhodes; a list of Italian officer duty assignments; an order-of-battle chart; status, casualty, and strength reports; daily orders relating to personnel matters; and an organization chart of Sturmdivision Rhodos.</p>				
<p>Ia, Anlagen 305-380 zum KTR 2. Orders, directives, reports, and messages pertaining to training, defense against enemy air and sea landings, air raid protection, commitment and battle conduct of Stuetzpunktgruppe Gaidura and Pz.Aufkl.Abt. 999, and use and treatment of Italian soldiers on the island of Rhodes; execution of Unternehmen Trianda (operation to destroy British radio stations and to capture enemy agents on the islands of Syme (Simi) and Nisyros (Nisiro), Greece, 7 Oct 1943) and Unternehmen Esperia (reconnaissance operation on the island of Chalke (Calchi), Greece, 16-18 Oct).</p> <p>Activity report of the liaison officer (HGr. E/O.Qu.) Aussenstelle Athen/ Verbindungsoffizier Rhodos, 1-15 Oct; reports concerning the political, tactical, sea and air, traffic, supply, health, war economy, and replacement situation,</p>	1943/10/01-1943/10/31	SturmD Rhodos 45659/5	2274	708

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS

83

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
the status of coastal defense, and enemy sea and air activity; daily orders relating to personnel matters; an order-of-battle chart; and status reports.				
Ia, Anlagen 381-427 zum KTB 2. Orders, directives, reports, and messages pertaining to coastal defense, training, air raid protection, security activity, guard duty, commitment and battle conduct of Stuetzpunktgruppe Gaddura and Pz.Aufkl.Abt. 999, formation of Festungs-Btl. 1001 and 1002, and readministering the military oath to Italian soldiers loyal to the German-Italian alliance on the island of Rhodes. Activity reports of the liaison officer (HGr. E/O.Qu.) Aussenstelle Athen/Verbindungsoffizier Rhodos, 16 Oct-16 Nov 1943; reports concerning the political, tactical, sea and air, traffic, supply, war economy, health, and replacement situation, enemy air and sea activity, the status of coastal defense, and the morale and attitude of Greeks and Italians on the islands of Rhodes, Nisyros, and Telos (Piscopi); daily orders relating to personnel matters; an order-of-battle chart; and status reports.	1943/11/01-1943/11/30	SturmD Rhodos 45659/6	2274	876
Ia, Anlagen 428-478 zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to coastal defense, air raid protection, security activity, supply economy, medical service, troop discipline and entertainment, and the formation, commitment, and armament of Festungs-Btl. 1001 and 1002 on the islands of Rhodes, Samos, Kalimnos (Calino) Leros, Levitha, Astypalaia (Stampalia), Nisyros, Telos, Syme, Karpathos (Scarpanto), and Kos (Coo). Situation and status reports; an order-of-battle chart; daily orders relating to personnel matters; and activity reports of the liaison officer (HGr. E/O.Qu.) Aussenstelle Athen/Verbindungsoffizier Rhodos, 16 Nov-15 Dec 1943.	1943/12/01-1943/12/30	SturmD Rhodos 45659/7	2274	1015

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Kartenanlagen zum KTB 2. Situation maps showing the location of German and Italian units on the island of Rhodes, 15 Jul-15 Sep 1943, and the location of division units on the islands of Rhodes, Syme, Kos, Leros, Samos, and Kalimnos, 30-31 Dec.	1943/07/15-1943/12/31	SturmD Rhodos 45659/8	2275	1
Ia, Anlage 222a zum KTB 2, Gefechtsberichte ueber den Kampf um die Insel Rhodos. Afteraction reports pertaining to offensive engagements by units of Sturmdivision Rhodos against Italian Forces to gain control of the island of Rhodes and the disarming and internment of Italian Forces on the island.	1943/09/08-1943/09/11	SturmD Rhodos 45659/9	2275	85
Ia, Anlage 324a zum KTB 2, Gefechtsberichte ueber das Unternehmen Simi. Afteraction reports concerning Unternehmen Simi (landing operations and offensive engagements by units of Sturmdivision Rhodos to occupy the island of Syme of the Dodecanese island group, 7 Oct 1943).	1943/10/06-1943/10/07	SturmD Rhodos 45659/10	2275	206
IIa/b, TB zum KTB 2. Activity report concerning formation of the division staff in Dresden, Wehrkreis IV, and transfer to the island of Rhodes in June to the beginning of July 1943; assignment of personnel and units to the island, Jun-Aug; commitment of a division liaison staff to the Italian Oberkommando Superegeo from July to the capitulation of Italy, 8 Sep; offensive engagements to gain control of the island and disarming and internment of Italian Forces, 9-16 Sep; the conquest of the island of Kos, 3-5 Oct; mopping-up operations on the island of Leros, 12-16 Nov; occupation of the island of Samos, 22-25 Nov; formation and arrival of Festungs-Rtl. 1001 and 1002, 29 Oct-20 Dec; and other personnel matters. Activity report of Abt. Ia/Org. and IIa/Org., 12 Sep-31 Dec, regarding disarming and internment of Italian Forces on the island of Rhodes, use of Italian officers and enlisted men within the	1943/07/01-1943/12/31	SturmD Rhodos 45659/11	2275	243

## STURM-DIVISION RHODOS

85

## CONTENTS

## DATES

## ITEM NO.

## ROLL 1ST FRAME

compass (im Rahmen) of the German Armed Forces, commitment of Italian units as a labor force, and formation, commitment, supplying, and pay of Fascist companies loyal to the German-Italian alliance.

Activity report with appendixes of Flottille Rhodos (subordinate to the division) regarding naval operations in the Dodecanese island group, 7-31 Oct, and its formation and commitment, 1 Nov-31 Dec; a register of officers; and lists of casualties.

Ic, Anlagen 1-46 zum TB, Mappe I, Feindlage und Lageberichte. Intelligence reports concerning the political situation; enemy air and sea activity; defense against forest fires, acts of sabotage and sedition, partisans, agents, parachutists, and air landing troops; military security; desertion and a.w.o.l. cases; evaluation of the enemy military situation in the Mediterranean; liaison with the Italian Oberkommando Superegeo and other Italian commands; and the attitude and morale of the Greek population and Italian troops after the Italian capitulation. A copy in German of a speech by Pope Pius XII on the fourth anniversary of World War II, 24 Aug 1943; excerpts from the division order of the day; and instruction pamphlets pertaining to British commando, naval, infantry, and sabotage troops and American combat landing methods.

1943/07/04-1943/12/15    SturmD Rhodos 45659/12    2275    322

Military-geographic data relating to the island of Rhodes and the Dodecanese island group and a list of intelligence officer duty assignments.

Ic, Anlagen 47-92 zum TB, Mappe II, Abwehr. Reports concerning counterintelligence activity against enemy acts of sabotage, sedition, and espionage; measures taken against desertion, a.w.o.l., fraternization, and

1943/07/01-1943/11/16    SturmD Rhodos 45659/13    2275    448



CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>escape attempts by interned Italian troops; military security; mail censorship; seizure of enemy radio stations; monitoring of enemy broadcasts; commitment of the secret field police; operations against enemy agents and partisan groups; and control of the civilian population on the island of Rhodes and the Dodecanese island group.</p>	1943/07/01-1944/01/03	SturmD Rhodos 45659/14	2275	582
<p>Ic, Anlagen 93-118 zum TB, Mappe III, Wehrgeistige Fuehrung/Geistige Betreuung. Reports concerning troop indoctrination, entertainment, education, and welfare and German and enemy propaganda leaflets.</p>				